

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Support for the amendment can be found in the Specification on page 17, Table 1 and on page 16, lines 28-29.

No new matter has been added.

Rejections Under 35 USC § 103

The Examiner had rejected claims 1-5 and 7-15 as obvious over US Patent No. 4,551,501 to Shiga et al. in view of US Patent US Patent No. 4,670,491 to Stretanski et al and/or US Patent No. 4,192,794 to Wang et al. The Examiner contends that Shiga et al. disclose a polymer composition comprising a blend of crystalline polypropylene and vinyl cycloalkanes. He contends that treatment of a Ti/Et₃Al catalyst with vinyl cyclohexane results in the formation of poly(vinyl cyclohexane) containing the active catalyst. He further contends that in the subsequent step propylene is polymerized in the presence of the catalyst modified with a polymer containing vinyl units previously prepared. Lastly, he contends that the inventors contemplated the use of additives normally incorporated into polypropylene, however no specific amount of pigment is disclosed.

The Examiner points to the disclosures of Stretanski and Wang which he believes teach additives such as coloring agents used in an amount of 2.5-5 wt-%. The Examiner concludes that one with ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to use the same amount of coloring agent taught in these references when using the Shiga et al. invention in order to produce a colored polypropylene composition. Applicants respectfully traverse.

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Applicants point out that the claims have been amended to claim a method of controlling shrinkage of colored polypropylene compositions in molded articles. Shiga et al. is directed to improving the crystallization and transparency of polypropylene compounds. Stretanski et al. and Wang et al. are concerned with stability of polymers. None of these publications discuss controlling shrinkage. Likewise, none of the publications discuss molded polypropylene articles with significantly reduced shrinkage.

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and removal of the rejections.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicants respectfully petition for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$1,020 is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

In view of the above remarks, all of the claims remaining in the case are submitted as defining non-obvious, patentable subject matter.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Leonard R. Svensson (Reg. No. 30,330) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

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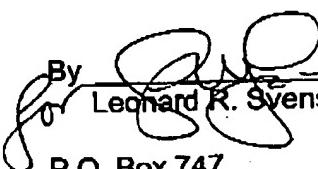
If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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LRS/SWG/sbp
0365-0444P

Respectfully submitted,

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